(b) The State Government had reportedly allotted Rs. 1870.89 lakhs out of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to different Departments towards various drought mitigation measures.

(c) The entire Central Share of CRF for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 40.77 crore has already been released to the State in connection with the relief & rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities.

Productivity of Agricultural Inputs

477. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether contribution to growth of agricultural producation from the productivity of inputs has declined to about 30% in the late 1980's;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this declining level;

(c) whether it is a fact that proper extension services are not available to farmers on use of inputs; and

(d) what steps have been taken to arrest this declining trend of productivity of agricultural inputs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The productivity of inputs in agriculture sector at constant prices in 1989-90 is 2.7% higher than that in 1980-81.

(c) No, Sir. The farmers are educated about judicious and timely use of inputs through training, infield guidance, demonstrations, exposure visits etc. Besides, such educational efforts are intensified further through print/mass media support and organisation of exhibitions and field days. State Departments of Agriculture, the State Agriculture Universities, ICAR Institutes and other agencies like NGOs, Co-operatives, Farmers' organisations input agencies etc. are engaged in this task.

(d) In order to increase the production and productivity of various crops in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Besides, Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the Minimum Support Prices for major crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers also encourages its consumption resulting in higher production and productivity.

Distribution of Seeds in the Country

478. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that old obsolete and substandard varieties of seeds are frequently distributed and used in India;

(b) what is the estimated loss due to use of substandard seeds;

(c) what measures have been taken to establish stringent quality control system to ensure regular supply of new, improved and more productive seeds and to ensure that good quality seeds do not siphon off to private agencies; and

(d) what steps have been taken to make the centralised system of production and supply of seeds, more flexible to adjust to the local needs of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government does not encourage production of old, obsolete & substandard varieties of seeds. Quality of seeds for distibution to farmers is being ensured under the relevant provisions of Seeds Act, Seeds Rules & Seed (Control) Order, 1983. No assessment of loss has been made due to use of substandard seeds.

(c) The measures taken to ensure regular supply to improved & productive seeds to farmers and to ensure that good quality seeds are not siphoned off to private agencies include:

1. Crop varieties are evolved by both public and private plant breeding programmes through various All India Co-ordinated Crop Improvement Projects in which several central and State Institutes participate. Before release, varieties are tested for three years. Based on the performance, the varieties are identified for release and notification.

(2) Quality control on seed as envisaged in the Seeds Act is being achieved through pre and post marketing control, voluntary certification and compulsory labelling of notified king/varieties. There are notified Seed Testing Laboratories to test the seed samples.

(3) Seed Inspectors and Seed Analysts have been notified for enforcing the Seed Law under relevant provisions of Seeds Act and Seed (Control) Order.

(4) Production of breeder seeds for further multiplication to foundation and certified seeds is regulated by the Central Government through a system of placing indents for breeder seed production with ICAR and allotment is made on the basis of indents received.

(d) The steps taken to make the centralised system of production and supply of seeds more flexible include:

1. The Indian Seed Programme is confined to the limited generation system for seed multiplication in phased manner. The system recognises three generations namely breeder, foundation and certified seeds to provide safeguards for quality assurance in seed multiplication chain.

(2) The indents for breeder seeds including local varieties from various seed producing agencies are collected by the State. Deptts. of Agriculture; National Level Corporations & Seed Associations of India and submitted to the Central Govt. which in turn complies this and gives it to ICAR for production of breeder seeds. Allotment of breeder seed based on production report and indents is made by the Central Government. The concerned Organisations then lift this breeder seeds for further multiplication.

(3) Labelling the seeds of notified kinds/varieties by the Producer has been permitted under relevant provisions of the Act.

(4) Relaxation in germination standards for the seeds not confirming to the prescribed standards is considered on case to case basis during natural calamities or other exigencies such as unfavourable weather conditions.

प्राकृतिक आपदा राहत के लिए जारी की गई निधियों का उपयोग

479. श्री मुनव्वर हसन: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार द्वारा 1 जनवरी, 1998 से 31 अक्तूबर, 1998 के दौरान प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से